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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 016354.0202

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )  
)  
John BARANOWSKI ) Examiner: Brian D. NASH  
)  
Application Number: 10/601,674 ) Group Art Unit: 3721  
)  
Filed: June 24, 2003 ) Confirmation No.: 8447  
)  
For: DISPENSING SYSTEMS AND )  
METHODS )

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF GROUP REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In an Office Action mailed February 4, 2005, the Office Action identified the following allegedly, patentably distinct groups and requested that Applicant elect one of these groups for prosecution in the above-captioned patent application:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Claims</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	1-28	Drawn to an apparatus for dispensing items in Class 53, Subclass 235
II	29-40	Drawn to a process for dispensing predetermined quantities of items to containers in Class 53, Subclass 473

**In response to that Office Action, Applicant respectfully elects Group I (claims 1-28), with traverse.**

Remarks:

According to the MPEP, a restriction between inventions is appropriate only when the inventions are shown to be distinct and when there would be a "serious burden" placed on the examiner to examine more than one invention in the same application. "If the search and